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Hearings on ITT Scored, Supported

Sen. Edward J. Gurney, R-Fla., yesterday accused the Democrats of "stalling and making a political issue" this election year on the approval of Richard G. Kleindienst as Attorney General while an investigation of International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. is under way.

Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) however, defended the Senate Judiciary Committee investigation by saying "there's something awfully fishy going on," which Congress should pursue.

Both men appeared on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP) to discuss the ITT case and the Kleindienst nomination.

The hearings head into the final two weeks today with Rep. Bob Wilson (D-Calif.) the leadoff witness, as the Committee investigation continues into the company's pledge to subsidize the GOP National Convention.

Wilson, chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, represents San Diego which will host the convention in August.

Wilson said in an interview that ITT pledged $400,000 while company president Harold Geneen testified that it pledged $200,000.

Tunney said the hearings must continue for at least another two weeks because "I think we are going to have many more witnesses testify before deciding whether to vote on Kleindienst. This kind of case hurts everyone in public life. We have to get to the bottom as best we can."

Gurney said he agreed that such investigations cast shadows on public figures, 'but all of this could have been resolved earlier. There is not a vestige of evidence that Mr. Kleindienst did anything improper" in handling the ITT case.

The Committee began investigating the case several weeks ago amid charges that the Justice Department had settled antitrust action pending against ITT in return for the convention financing. Kleindienst was deputy attorney general at the time of the settlement. He has denied any wrongdoing.